



Councilmembers (from left): Council Vice Chair **Rod Dembowski**, Council Vice Chair **Reagan Dunn**, **Kathy Lambert**, Council Chair **Joe McDermott**, **Jeanne Kohl-Welles**, **Larry Gossett**, **Dave Upthegrove**, **Claudia Balducci**, and **Pete von Reichbauer**.

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With over two million residents, King County is the 13th largest county in the United States in terms of population. There are more people living in King County than in 14 states! At 2,130 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for approximately 246,000 people who live in our unincorporated urban and rural areas, and we provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the Council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services for this region, including:

- The criminal justice system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention and adult jails;
- The King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police services;

- Public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service and county roads;
- Wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- Regional parks, open space, and trails; and
- Elections, records, and licensing.

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district of about 234,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has several standing committees that oversee specific functions of county government and a Committee of the Whole that includes all Councilmembers. Councilmembers also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

The Council's review of ordinances, motions, and budgets help ensure that county government operates in an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective manner, with equal access for all county residents.

# Message from the Council Chair and the King County budget



**Joe McDermott, Chair**

From the shores of Puget Sound east to the crest of the Cascades, King County is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

While we're proud of the natural beauty and strong economy that may define us to others, we know it's the people that make King County a special place to call home. It's why as Chair of this Council I promise

to put each and every one of our residents at the core of every decision we make.

After all, it's our people's diversity and shared commitment to the common good driving so much of the personal, economic, and environmental successes of

this great place. It's our duty as elected officials to respect and support these principles.

And we have real challenges we must overcome. Housing and healthcare are fundamental needs, yet remain so far out of reach for too many. We must ensure that all people who live here, no matter where they're from or how long they've been here, know our county to be a welcoming and affirming place to live and raise a family. Income inequality continues to grow and disparities remain in our justice and educational systems. We have so much more work to do.

Working together, we can and must reach our full potential. I truly believe we will. I hope you share the same pride I have in calling this great place home. As this year's Council Chair, I look forward to working with you to continue moving our region forward, with opportunity for all.

## Understanding the county budget

The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 87% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like the regional Emergency Medical Services.

The discretionary portion of the county budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 13% of the total budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (73%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated by the State. The remainder must fund other services, such as elections and human services (see pie chart).

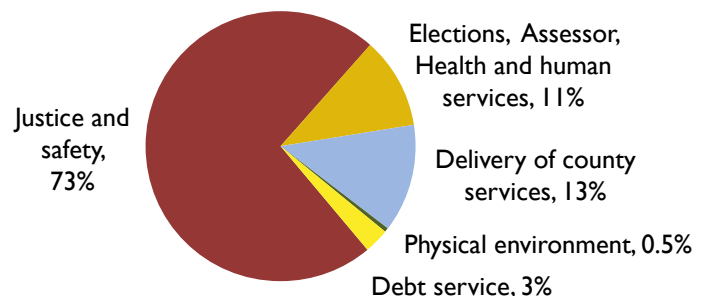
The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, King County collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, King County receives only 18 cents of every property tax dollar, with the rest going to other agencies (see bar graph). Similarly, King County receives less than one cent of the 9.5 cents sales tax per dollar collected in most of the county.

Since the State of Washington enacted the one percent cap on property tax increases, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by several hundred

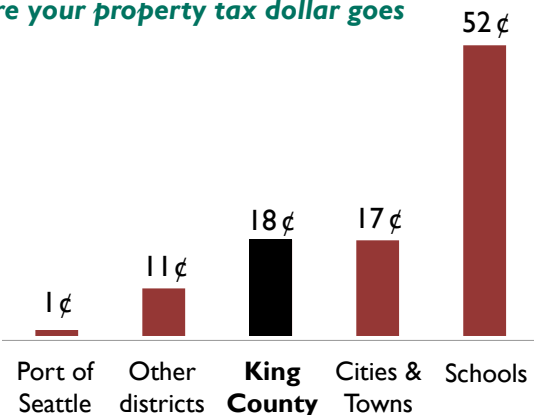
million dollars, with consequent reductions in services to county residents.

In the fall of 2018, the King County Council will review and adopt the biennial budget for 2019 and 2020. Public hearings will be held that October. To learn more about the King County budget, please visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget)

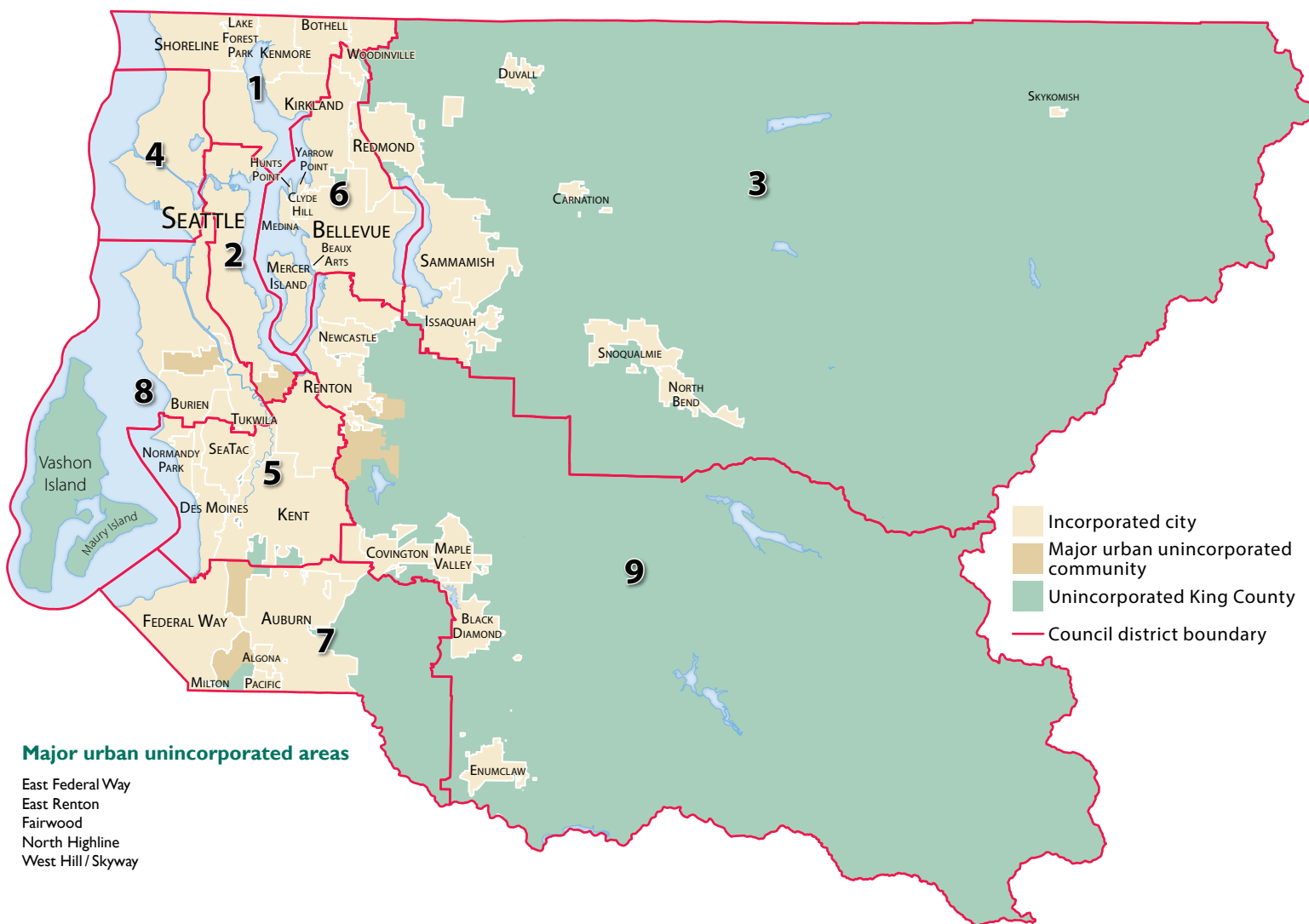
### General Fund expenditures



### Where your property tax dollar goes



# Council districts map



## Contact information

The King County Council meets on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in Chambers on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. All public meetings held in Chambers are cablecast live on King County TV (channel 22 Comcast and Wave in SD, channel 322 Comcast and 722 Wave in HD). Agendas, minutes, and videos of past meetings are available online on our website.

### Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council  
King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

### Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165  
Fax: (206) 296-0198  
TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

### Online

Web: [www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil)  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/KCCouncil>

### Clerk of the Council

E-mail: [clerk.council@kingcounty.gov](mailto:clerk.council@kingcounty.gov)  
Telephone: (206) 477-1020

### Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at  
[www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers/find\\_district](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers/find_district)

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Rod Dembowski	477-1001	<a href="mailto:rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov">rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov</a>
2	Larry Gossett	477-1002	<a href="mailto:larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov">larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov</a>
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	<a href="mailto:kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov">kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov</a>
4	Jeanne Kohl-Welles	477-1004	<a href="mailto:jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov">jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov</a>
5	Dave Upthegrove	477-1005	<a href="mailto:dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov">dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov</a>
6	Claudia Balducci	477-1006	<a href="mailto:claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov">claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov</a>
7	Peter von Reichbauer	477-1007	<a href="mailto:pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov">pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov</a>
8	Joe McDermott	477-1008	<a href="mailto:joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov">joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov</a>
9	Reagan Dunn	477-1009	<a href="mailto:reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov">reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov</a>

# Council's standing and regional committees

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. Councilmembers also serve as the Board of Supervisors for the King County Flood Control District, a special-purpose government created with authority provided by the State Legislature. Additionally, individual councilmembers serve on a variety of external committees, boards, and commissions, such as the Board of Health and the Sound Transit Board.

For more information on the committees below, including meeting times, agendas, and alternate members, as well as the external panels on which individual councilmembers serve, please visit [www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees).

## Council committees

### Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the full Council.

**Chair:** Claudia Balducci

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** All Councilmembers

### Budget and Fiscal Management

Policy direction for the County budget.

**Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

### Government Accountability and Oversight

Oversight of county government for efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Member:** Claudia Balducci, Larry Gossett

### Health, Housing, and Human Services

Policy relating to public health, human services, and housing programs.

**Chair:** Jeanne Kohl-Welles

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, Dave Upthegrove

### Law and Justice

Policy relating to public safety and criminal justice.

**Chair:** Larry Gossett

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Reagan Dunn, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott

### Transportation, Economy, and Environment

Oversight of public transit, passenger ferries, county roads, environment, water quality, and economic policy.

**Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Vice Chair:** Claudia Balducci

**Members:** Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Pete von Reichbauer

### Alternatives to Incarceration

Special committee to explore alternatives to incarceration.

**Co-chairs:** Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

## Regional committees

### Regional Policy

Countywide policies and plans on issues such as human services, criminal justice, and solid waste management.

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke

**Members:** Claudia Balducci, Larry Gossett

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Auburn City Councilmember Bill Peloza, Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas, and Mercer Island City Councilmember Dan Grausz

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Debora Juarez, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

### Regional Transit

Countywide plans and policies pertaining to King County Metro Transit services.

**Chair:** Claudia Balducci

**Vice Chair:** Sammamish City Councilmember

Kathy Huckabay

**Members:** Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Kirkland City Councilmember Dave Asher, Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Auburn City Councilmember Claude DaCorsi, Tukwila City Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Duval City Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, and Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Mike O'Brien

### Regional Water Quality

Countywide plans and policies for water quality and sewer services, capital facilities, rate policies, and facilities siting.

**Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Vice Chair:** Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**Members:** Rod Dembowski, Jeanne Kohl-Welles

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Kirkland City Councilmember Penny Sweet, Mercer Island City Councilmember Benson Wong

**Sewer District Members:** Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Councilmember Kshama Sawant